



# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JANUARY 2018 VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

## INSIDE

Groundcover changes	2
GCN Executive Director	2
A gift remembered	3
Active hope	3
Shelter Association	4
U-M Radical Library	5
MLK Day reflections	6
Story Slam recap	6
Vendor Pony update	7
Vendor Tabitha update	7
Obituaries	8
Puzzles	9
Fermi 2 safety risks	10
Boober Tours update	11
Banana bread	12

\$2

Your donation directly benefits the vendors.  
Please buy only from badged vendors.



Lonnie's  
Story  
— p. 7



## Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes and updates



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

It is my pleasure to report that Ted Sylvester is now the Executive Director of Groundcover News. He is learning his way around our operations and is assuming management of our daily operations. I will continue as publisher for the time being but plan to eventually turn that role over to Ted as well. I would also like to welcome Laurie Wechter, a social worker who will assist with supervising social work interns and helping vendors get the services they need.

We were fortunate to have a couple of great candidates to choose from. Ted and Laurie, a married couple, have

ample relevant experience, having published the monthly newspaper *Agenda* in Ann Arbor for about a dozen years. (See *Ted's editorial, below, for more about him and Laurie.*) We look forward to innovations they will spearhead to keep Groundcover News vital and viable.

Collaborations with the community continued throughout December as the TEDxUofM student group and Groundcover co-hosted a packed story slam at the downtown Sweetwaters. University of Michigan students and Groundcover vendors told stories about odd encounters they had in their lives. Many were funny but the final story of the evening, told by Hailu (aka Snap), stuck with me. See the article on page 6 for a recap of that.

The fundraiser hosted for us by Unity Vibration in Ypsilanti was warm and wonderful. Many of us learned about

Kombucha for the first time and enjoyed tasting so many different flavors. The audience appreciated the acoustic music and sharings about Groundcover by local therapist Michael Joseph. Many thanks to owners Tarek and Rachel for conceiving of this event and graciously welcoming us.

So many people worked together to make our holiday party a rousing success. Donations of money, time, gifts, socks, gloves and hats enabled us to give each vendor at the party a complete set of winter accessories and a personalized gift. Volunteers, vendors and other supporters came together to provide and share a sumptuous feast and fellowship. As always, our office staff volunteers went over and above to make this event special for our vendors.

We will rest and recover during early January and then prepare for **International Street Paper Vendor Ap-**

**preciation Week**, which is during the first full week of February. It is another opportunity to show support for those who sell Groundcover, in the deepest part of winter when they most need encouragement. Contact us by email ([contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com)) or phone ([734-707-9210](tel:734-707-9210)) if you'd like to be part of a team that honors our vendors. Past efforts have included delivering hot cocoa and homemade treats to them while they are out selling, making and delivering survival and self-care packages, selling with vendors as guest celebrities, and arranging interviews, advertisements and declarations of appreciation.

Please join us at our **upcoming volunteer meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 10** at our office to meet Ted and Laurie and help us plan and execute our activities for the next couple of months.



Meet Ted Sylvester and Laurie Wechter, who are taking the reins at Groundcover News.

for each issue's release akin to the anticipation for an upcoming *Harry Potter* or *Star Wars* movie. We hope that you will join us in our quest!

My greatest challenge as Executive Director will be helping this already excellent publication and its vital mission to weather the political storms and the moral and economic indifference of those in power. Continued editorial and financial growth of Groundcover are my highest priority.

I look forward to working with not only the vendors but also with the mostly volunteer staff that produce the newspaper, the awesome board of directors, the student interns, our community partners, amazing advertisers and the countless volunteers and community members who make it all happen. I especially look forward to working with and learning from Susan Beckett, Groundcover's founder, publisher and Mother-in-Chief! I look forward to learning to build on Susan's success and continuing to fulfill Groundcover's mission.

Laurie and I have exciting ideas regarding new dimensions in copy and design for the paper. We hope to make the wait

## GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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## Executive Director excited to guide Groundcover News

by Ted Sylvester  
Executive Director

Greetings, friends – I am excited to begin making your acquaintance! It is an honor and privilege, for both Laurie and me, to join an enterprise that not only provides a forum for the low-income members of our community, but also provides real economic opportunity to those same people.

When I told my friends and colleagues about my new position, almost every one of them asked, “Do you mean the newspaper that homeless people sell on the downtown streets of Ann Arbor?” After accepting their well wishes, I told them that Groundcover News was indeed that paper, but that it was not nearly as limited as that.

I told them how very cool it is that Groundcover is actually part of a net-

work of street newspapers published in cities across the United States, as well as in 40 other countries. Chicago, New York and Los Angeles, as well as London, Paris and Rome, all have well established papers. They have names like *StreetWise* and *The Big Issue* and are all based on the same mission: to provide a voice for low-income people while taking action to end poverty and homelessness.

Low-income people in Ann Arbor who come to Groundcover wanting to contract as vendors are initially given a micro-loan in the form of 10 free copies of the paper. At the sale price of two dollars a copy, it amounts to a \$20 loan and the beginnings of an opportunity to be gainfully self-employed.

Groundcover vendors, after receiving special training, are free to sell the 10 copies and pocket all of the money – if they choose. Or, they may take that \$20 and use all or part of it to buy more copies of the newspaper for 50 cents a copy, sell them for two dollars and pocket one dollar and fifty cents!

Laurie and I believe that this structure is the strength of Groundcover News. While vendors are trained and encouraged by their own ranks, staffers, volunteers, board members and interns, they are self-empowered in the act of starting and succeeding in their own businesses.

## LETTER to the EDITOR

### Stand for peace and justice this MLK, Jr. Day

You can protest the rise of President Trump this year by reaffirming the far more humane values of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Each person attending an event this year is another human witness for peace and justice.

Paul Lambert

## A gift remembered



by Rev Dr.  
Martha Brunell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

Advertising has died down again online and on billboards, across the airwaves and television screens and also in print. Wrong sizes or colors have been returned. Wrong gifts have been re-gifted. Wrapping paper, ribbon, and the ever-popular gift bags have been packed up for another year. We've exhaled with sighs of relief, satisfaction and disappointment. Once more the great gift-giving time with its multiple holidays has come and gone.

On a spiritual level, gratitude is widely recognized as a practice of joy and meaning in our lives. And so, in the immediate aftermath of December 2017, as the days of January spread out before us, for what are we grateful? Will anything that we gave or received make a

genuine difference in who we are becoming?

For me, a December moment that sparkled came early last month. It was late afternoon on Saturday, December 2. I had spent a few hours at one facility catching up on some hospice visits. I had one more patient to see. He isn't that easy to be with. His manner is gruff, his hearing is bad and his dementia is a steady companion. Decades after an affair and second marriage that threw eight kids together, his visits with family are few.

This tall, large-handed, former farmer is often ill at ease these days. He wasn't in his room or bathroom. It took me a little time to find him. Staff suggested he was probably out making his rounds in the hallway. I had never seen him out of his room. I found him down several hallways from the room that is now his home. Slowly he made his way hunched over in his wheelchair. His hands can't grip the wheels anymore and instead just nudge them forward or back as his feet pad on the floor. When I greeted

## Active Hope: the antidote to despair



by Andrew Nixon  
Editor

ous; simple wishful thinking won't suffice. What, then, is the basis for *genuine* hope?

Here are three very good reasons to take heart I've gleaned from 20 years of interdisciplinary research into these matters:

### 1. The night is darkest just before dawn.

*“An oyster, in response to trauma, grows a pearl.”*  
– Joanna Macy

We are in the midst of “the largest social movement in history,” according to visionary economist Paul Hawkins – a convergence and mobilization of collective energy, attention, creativity and determination the likes of which the world has never before seen. Celebrated octogenarian environmental activist, Joanna Macy, calls this “The Great Turning,” and like the pearl in the oyster, it is humanity's response to the downward spiral we find ourselves in (aka “The Great Unravelling”). Signs of this radical transformation, based on a scientifically-grounded, flowering collective recognition of our fundamental interconnectedness, are everywhere – if one knows where to look. And as we awaken to our interconnectedness, and to a broader self-sense, we begin to discover, in Macy's words, a “commitment to act for the sake of life on Earth as well as the vision, courage, and solidarity to do so.” Make no mistake: *the wave of The Great Turning is steadily overcoming that of The Great Unravelling.*

More than ever before, the world needs our hope and our care. And yet, as we enter the New Year, the chaos and turmoil of 2017 has understandably left many wondering, *What reason is there for hope?*

I am a natural optimist, but also a realist. The problems we face are real, and seri-

him, he briefly acknowledged I was there and went back to his painfully slow movement. This could have been a quick stop-by for me, but something inside me stilled my pace and held me there.

For the next 45 minutes I accompanied him on his slow return route in the direction of his room. At times he would back up and recover ground we had already gained. I made the effort to resist my own impatience. Here and there he looked off and spoke of children at play, a wagon of hay or worry about the seeds. At a greatly reduced speed he revisited aloud varied years and experiences. It was only through his eyes that I could imagine what he saw.

My words were few. When we finally got back to his room, he didn't stop. He was propelling himself onward for the next turn into another hallway ahead. I did need to be going by then and gently and loudly told him that. At that point, he looked up at me, reached out his hand to shake mine, and said “thank you.” It was a precious recognition of

### 2. Don't despair – people care!

*“The only way out is through.”*  
– Robert Frost

I often hear people blame the mess we are in on public apathy: people have become overly selfish and don't care enough to get involved. But my research has convinced me that the precise opposite is true: *people care about the state of our world.* A lot. So much, in fact, that many have become overwhelmed and paralyzed by the magnitude and complexity of the world's problems, and understandably resort to various coping strategies – from drugs to dissociation to flat-out denial – in order to numb themselves from the sheer terror and helplessness they feel deep-down. It all just feels like too much to bear.

But Macy's research on “despair work” shows that when we honor our pain for the world instead of hiding from it, we unlock a veritable geyser of energy that easily translates into passionate action. By overcoming the emotional blocks that shut us down, we can become joyful participants in the shaping of a better future.

### 3. Hope is active

*“Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.”*  
– Mother Teresa

In her pioneering book, *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're in without Going Crazy*, Macy distinguishes two

connection made. Never before had a visit ended with anything other than my determination that it was over. This day it was capped with his greeting of gratitude.

In actuality, a large degree of thanks were mine. I did pick up my pace as I walked away, but the just-completed three-quarters of an hour in snail's motion had made me a better caregiver even after all these years as a hospice chaplain. I knew that immediately. Exchanges of grace like this one, way outside our planning, shift and shape us.

The gift for me was his unexpected invitation to enter into his remembrance and reflection, yielding an encounter with him at a deeper level. Such encounters are gold for hospice staff in every discipline. His gift remains with me and will long into the future even though it will never be the content of any advertising campaign. For each of us in the Groundcover community, I wish such gifts in 2018 when we will see and know each other more fully. Happy New Year!

kinds of hope: *passive hope* and *active hope*. “Passive hope is about waiting for external agencies to bring about what we desire. Active hope is about becoming active participants in bringing about what we hope for. Active hope is a practice. Like tai chi or gardening, it is something we do rather than have.”

No matter how big or bad the problems of our world seem, despairing about them is a guaranteed self-fulfilling prophecy. The Great Unravelling *will* have its way with our future if we give up. But time and time again, brave leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. and *our very own Susan Beckett* have shown us a viable way forward. That way is love.

When a loved one is in pain, we instinctively reach out to them in compassion. But when the world at large is hurting, we often throw our hands up in frustration. Why the difference? Because in the latter case, we are afraid we will fail at making a difference, or risk being destroyed in the process. Yet if we stay centered in love rather than fear, we will respond to a hurting world with compassionate action – for love is our natural response to suffering. *Compassion itself becomes our motivation to act*, rather than – and regardless of – the desired outcome. We also discover that wholehearted giving gives back; when we express our care for the world through compassionate actions – small or large – we feel replenished to fight (that is, love) another day.



## Shelter Association of Washtenaw County: reducing confrontations

by Susan Beckett

There were City of Ann Arbor shelters long before the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC) took charge, providing crucial services and building the Delonis Center in 2003 as their base of operations. Ellen Schulmeister was at the helm of the SAWC for most of that time. The new director of the SAWC, Dan Kelly, holds Schulmeister and the accomplishments of her tenure in high regard. Nevertheless, he brings a fresh perspective and has designs to make the shelter a more welcoming place.

Demand for shelter has always exceeded the supply of beds. Prior to the opening of Delonis, a building on Huron housed men, one on Felch housed women and there was a day shelter on Ashley, all in downtown Ann Arbor. After a protracted losing battle with Pittsfield Township where the County wanted to locate a 150-200 bed shelter and services complex, the Delonis Center was built on Huron St. in Ann Arbor.

The Delonis Center is a four-story building. Men's bedrooms are on the third floor and women's bedrooms are on a part of the fourth floor, which is also used for office space. Most rooms have four beds though a few have only three beds to better accommodate people with physical handicaps that require more space.

The second floor is a service center during the day and, during cold weather, a separate sleeping space for women staying in the warming center. The service center is a place for those experiencing homelessness to meet with their case managers and other non-profit community partners across the community. It has a community room for the use of the residents and a computer room that can be used for job and housing applications by all the clients being served by SAWC case workers.

Some of these clients sleep on mats on the first-floor warming center during the winter when the dining room is converted to emergency shelter at night. Tables are set back up in the morning for the Community Kitchen lunch and dinner services. Others who make use of the SAWC case manager social workers are in the shelter diversion program where they are pursuing housing options, employment and/or disability certification.

The Delonis waitlist often exceeds 60



SAWC Director Dan Kelly displayed one of the Christmas gifts left for Delonis residents in a 4th-floor men's bedroom.

people, though it was at 42 in December. The typical wait for a bed in a room was about six weeks then. A shortage of affordable housing remains the main cause of the long wait for shelter beds. The average stay in the shelter was 66 days last year. That number is lower than previous years thanks to the large numbers of people who were housed as the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Housing Commissions completed refurbishing many of their larger complexes over the last two years.

During the worst of the recession, additional funding from the City of Ann Arbor facilitated the expanded use of the second floor to include 25 more beds. They were closed again in the summer of 2016 due to insufficient funding. This area did provide a separate sleeping space for women during the winter of 2017 and will again this winter, which hopefully helps women feel more comfortable accessing shelter during the winter months.

Kelly is seeking funding to permanently re-open these rooms. In the meantime, Kelly wants to use that space meaningfully year-round. One possibility is to house people there who are medically fragile, such as those being released from a hospital. Another possibility is to use it as a triage area for those in an acute crisis.

Mentally agitated people are often easily set off by the behavior of others. In the past, many ended up being "trespassed" from the Delonis Center, meaning that not only could they not sleep there; they couldn't eat or get medical care there either.

Prior to the warming shelter opening, the Delonis Center staff reviews the cases of all those who have been trespassed and lifts them for those who do not seem to be a danger to others. There is also a grievance/appeal process for anyone who feels they were treated unfairly. They submit a form which is reviewed weekly on Friday by a group of staff members. If the client disagrees with their decision, it is taken to a client advocacy committee. Board members, those with lived experience, and community members comprise the committee and they are empowered to override the staff's decision. One change from previous years is that the client is no longer required to admit guilt in order to be reinstated.

Kelly has replaced the large binder of rules with one sheet that emphasizes safety and respect for community. He believes that clients should have a say in how services are provided and how problems are handled. One sensitive example is preventing drug overdoses. (Last year nine people overdosed at the Delonis Center, one of whom could not be revived.) A typical response is to minimize opportunity by keeping the bathroom doors locked. Obviously, this is an inconvenience to everyone. Kelly plans to talk with guests about how they think it should be handled.

Recognizing the important role staff plays, Kelly is keeping a case manager on duty until late in the evening to help anticipate and recognize overdose risks. The shelter was also successful in retaining most of last year's warming center staff whose previous experience

should help them be more proactive this year.

A point of emphasis is teaching staff how to interact compassionately and effectively with clients and then retaining those staff members. De-escalation and Trauma Informed Care trainings provide staff with tools to avoid confrontations and resolve disputes to everyone's satisfaction.

This year the SAWC added Critical Time Intervention services to assist the most vulnerable people transitioning into housing. Short-term case management strengthens ties to ongoing services and support systems and is designed to increase individuals' quality of life and reduce their chances of returning to homelessness.

Most services, including the use of showers, storage lockers and laundry facilities, are open to all SAWC clients, not just those who sleep at Delonis. The SAWC partners with many other community organizations to provide services to both residential and non-residential clients, including housing and employment assistance, transportation assistance, substance abuse evaluation and intervention, mental health assessments, referrals for clothing, meals and medical care at the Delonis Center. SAWC also partners with Interfaith Housing Network on the rotating shelter program, in which up to 25 men are hosted by area faith-based congregations during the winter.

Due to an increase in the number of young people seeking shelter at Delonis, Kelly plans to work with Ozone House to provide late-evening peer support services. There was an 18 percent increase in applicants 24 years old or younger last year.

Volunteers at the Delonis Center serve a light breakfast to residential guests from 6-7:30 a.m. or volunteer in four-hour blocks during which they assist with laundry or staff the door or front desk where they greet people and check them in and answer phones. Specialized volunteers also help with the clinics and other services. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and cannot have received services from the SAWC in the past two years. A link to the volunteer manual, confidentiality agreement and sign-up form can be found on their website at the bottom of the page at <http://annarborshelter.org/volunteer>. For more information, call (734) 662-2829 ext. 221 or email [volunteers@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:volunteers@ewashtenaw.org).

## Interview with Radical Library curator Julie Herrada

by Anonymous

Just like buildings and trees, some people have been around Ann Arbor so long that I forget when they arrived. Julie Herrada, curator of the University of Michigan (U-M) Radical Library, is one such person.

Like my first acquaintance with Julie in Detroit years ago, my latest serendipitous encounter with Julie led to the following exchange.

**Q:** How long have you been affiliated with the U-M Radical Library, formally known as the Labadie Collection?

**A:** 23 years.

**Q:** How long has the Labadie Collection existed?

**A:** Since 1911.

**Q:** The Labadie Collection sometimes makes the front page of the *Michigan Daily*. When is the Collection worthy of front-page coverage?

**A:** Every day.

**Q:** Is there a "golden era" of radical literature?

**A:** Probably 1870-1920. That's when printed material became widely acceptable to ordinary people, not just elites.

**Q:** As you know better than anyone, the collection is named for Detroit labor activist and anarchist Joseph Antoine Labadie (1850-1933), who in 1911 donated the books, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, manuscripts and memorabilia he had assembled over the years. In the 1930s, the U-M Library's Joseph A. Labadie Collection – the oldest publicly accessible archive of its kind in America – was called "probably the most complete record of the social unrest of our times that has ever been assembled." It has since grown and expanded in scope. Your thoughts?

**A:** This is a collection that documents history from below. We are preserving, and making available to the public, the activities of under-represented groups, people whose ideas are considered marginal or dangerous.

*U-M Radical Library hours are Monday through Friday, 10-5, with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. It is one of the Special Collections located within the Hatcher Graduate Library on*

*the U-M Diag. It is open to the public for reading and copying, but material cannot be checked out.*

Julie Herrada has been the curator of the U-M Radical Library for 23 years.



### GROUNDCOVER Benefit Concert

Sunday, Feb. 18 - 2pm @ Trinity Church  
1400 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor

Advance tickets and premium seating available online now at:  
[groundcovernews.org/gemini](http://groundcovernews.org/gemini)



Advance tickets:  
\$20 Premium Seating

\$12 General Admission

At the door:  
\$10 Cash Only

Support Groundcover News while enjoying children's music and folk songs - a great Valentine's Day gift!

## Washtenaw Housing Education Partners Making The Dream Of Home Ownership A Reality



### HOME OWNERSHIP EDUCATION

Pre-purchase homebuyer educational seminars are held throughout the year along with individual pre-purchase housing counseling with certified housing counselors.

### NEXT SEMINAR DATES:

Jan. 10 & 17, 2018 from 6-9 pm

Western Washtenaw County Service Center

MSUE Classroom

705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI

(time & location for both seminar dates)

Visit [www.ewashtenaw.org/homeownership](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/homeownership) or call 734.222.9595 for more details



## Story Slam: a teachable moment

by Susan Beckett  
and Hailu Shitaye,  
Groundcover Vendor #205

University of Michigan students and Groundcover vendors told stories about odd encounters they had in their lives at a packed story slam at the downtown Sweetwaters. TEDxUofM set up the event and invited Groundcover vendors to join them.

Joe regaled the crowd with his teenage misadventures on a school trip to Acapulco. Will told of a former NBA player who struggled with episodes of homelessness. Shelley related a peculiar exchange in which an acquaintance told her that people are homeless by choice. Lit shared about the strangeness of finding herself homeless – she compared it to jetlag. She also urged people to “choose a day” when asked for a donation rather than saying “not today.”

Hailu (also known as Snap) started the evening by sharing how odd he feels when he is selling Groundcover and encounters people he has worked with in academia. He went on to share on how to evaluate a research question using the FINER (Feasible, Interesting,



The Dec. 7 TEDxUofM Story Slam featured several Groundcover News vendors. Clockwise from top: Will William Shakespeare, Shelley DeNeve, Hailu Shitaye, Joe Woods and Lit Kurtz.

Novel, Ethical and Relevant) approach, which he thought the many students in the audience might find useful when deciding on projects they want to undertake. Inspired by a different vendor not able to participate in the activity due to being “trespassed” from the venue, Hailu closed the evening with a second story describing his own experi-

ence being banned from an Ann Arbor business and reading a poem written by the vendor who could not participate in the event because he had been banned from the café.

Hailu regularly purchased sandwiches at a local 7-Eleven until one day the manager accused him of shoplifting. She told him that she had seen him on the previous day’s video stealing

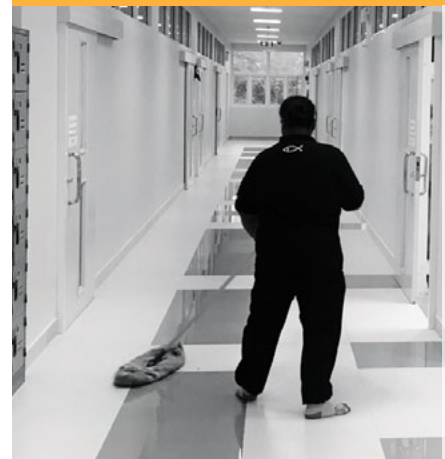
beer and that he needed to leave or she would call the police. He denied ever stealing anything and asked to view the video, thinking that it was simply a case of mistaken identity. She refused to show him the video and continued to threaten to call the police.

“Call the police,” Hailu said, refusing to go. “It wasn’t me.”

Hailu ended up calling the police himself in hopes of clearing his name. The police came and the manager again refused to show the video evidence. Although they did not believe her story, the police still wrote a trespass order, prohibiting Hailu from setting foot in the store for a year. They explained to him that a business owner can trespass anyone for pretty much any reason and they must write the order. They were willing to testify if Hailu decided to sue the store in civil court but there was nothing else they could do to resolve the situation.

Up until then, Hailu had believed that when someone was trespassed from a place, they had done something to merit it. He learned the hard way that property owners can take that action capriciously. It was an eye-opening encounter that changed his snap judgments.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



In Washtenaw County,  
14% of our citizens  
live in poverty.  
Another 23% struggle  
to make ends meet.

GIVE NOW @uwgive.org

United Way  
of Washtenaw County



Local Dollars are  
Changing Local Lives

## MLK, Jr. Day: reflections on King’s vision of a Beloved Community

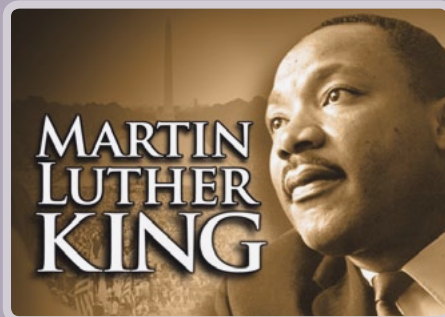
by Will William Shakespeare  
Groundcover Vendor #258

January 15, 2018 is Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday celebration. It is a big deal in town and on the campuses of Eastern Michigan University (EMU) and the University of Michigan (U-M). There are several events around town and on campus.

About 50 years ago, in the South Side Chicago, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. introduced the concept of a “Beloved Community” as the nation struggled to heal from riots, violence, divisions and disharmony. The man with the Dream challenged America to work together and build a Beloved Community of peace, justice and diversity.

People all over the nation have embarked on a quest to make real the hopes and aspirations embodied in King’s August 28, 1963 “I Have a Dream” speech. Dr. King gave hundreds of speeches about social justice, economic justice, community peace, educational excellence, women’s rights, civil rights, poverty solutions, equal opportunity, youth development, love, friendship, multicultural diversity, equity and inclusion.

As we celebrate King’s birthday, let us reflect on the ongoing challenges of the civil rights movement, the challenges we face today as a nation and the hope for a



brighter future. (Reading King’s speech entitled “What is the Blueprint for your Future?” is good preparation for things to come, especially for millennials.)

Descriptions of all the U-M events to commemorate MLK, Jr. can be found at <http://oami.umich.edu/um-mlk-symposium/events/>, and those at EMU can be found at [www.emich.edu/mlk/schedule.php](http://www.emich.edu/mlk/schedule.php).

Additionally, The Ann Arbor Art Center invites you to come create your own unique collage inspired by artist Romare Bearden during the free family drop-in event on MLK, Jr. Day. All ages are welcome, but children need to be accompanied by an adult. More info: [www.annarborartcenter.org/mlk-day](http://www.annarborartcenter.org/mlk-day).

January 15 is also the MLK, Jr. National Day of Service. Suggested projects can be located by visiting:

[www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday](http://www.nationalservice.gov/mlkday).

## Pony now at Village Kitchen



by Pony Bush  
Groundcover  
Vendor #305

Many of you have come to know me from my work in front of Kiwanis. The Kiwanis thrift shop was very important to me throughout my life. Unfortunately, Kiwanis has moved from downtown and I can’t sell there anymore since it

is on private property and I don’t have permission to be there.

A good thing that has come out of this is that I now have a spot at The Village Kitchen in the Westgate Shopping Center on Saturday mornings. The people I have met at The Village Kitchen have been really nice, and the owner and staff of the restaurant welcomed me very warmly. I hope that you will come by and see me on Saturday mornings at The Village Kitchen and enjoy a good breakfast or brunch, too.

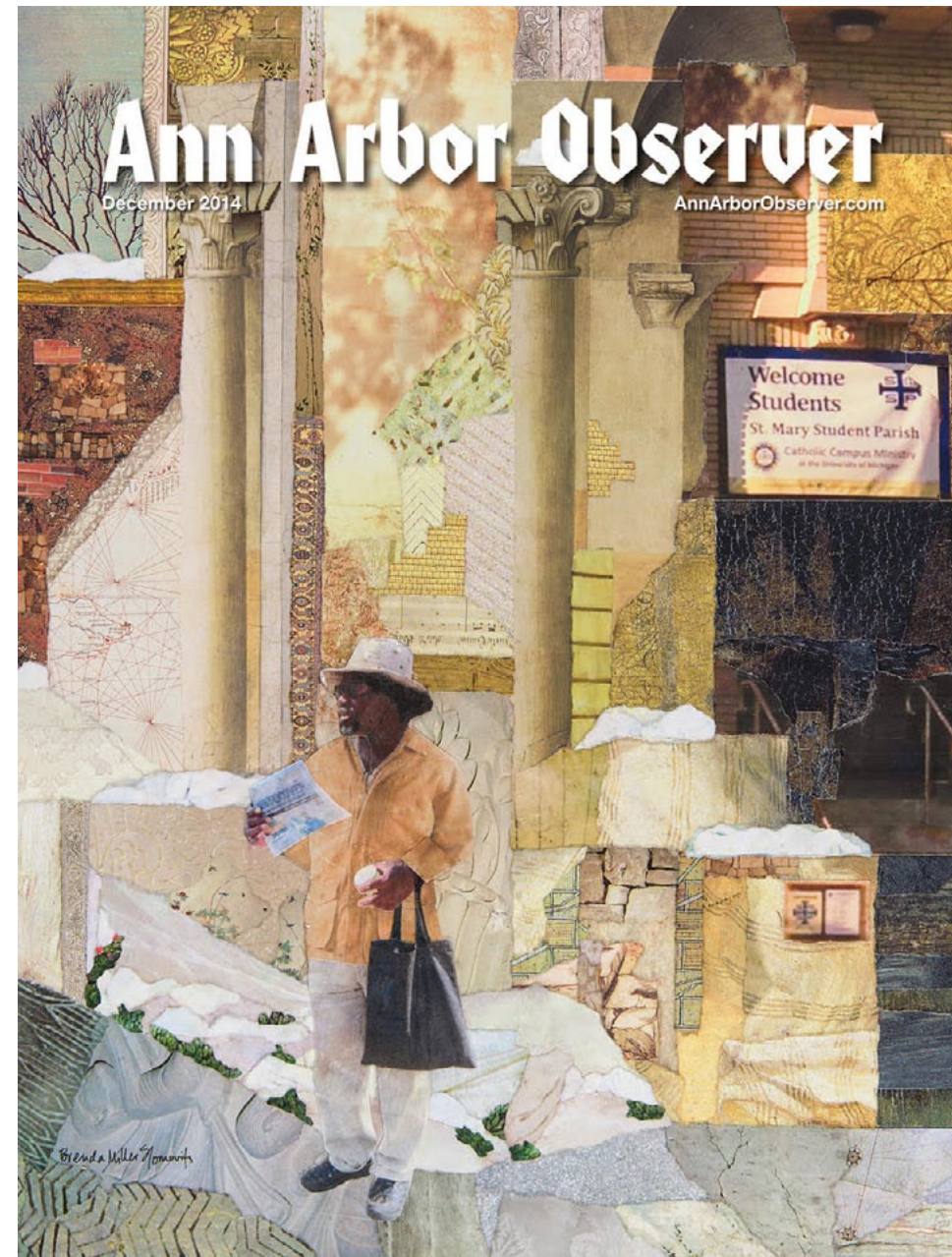
## Lonnie’s journey from homelessness to self-sufficiency

by Lonnie Baker  
Groundcover Vendor #99

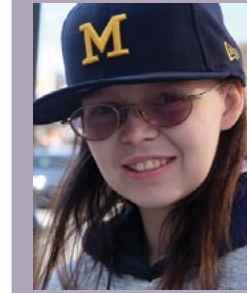
My life began well and I’m confident it will end well. I’m now ready to relate some of what came in the middle.

My happy childhood life in Detroit was disrupted when my parents divorced. Though my father and I remained close, I started acting out and took advantage of lax supervision. By middle school, I was already in trouble with the law.

I moved from Detroit to Washtenaw County in 1983. I lived in Ypsilanti and worked as a rental agent as my first job here. Over the years, I also worked at some unskilled labor jobs I could learn instantly. After several years, my vision became impaired and I was diagnosed with a kind of macular degeneration known as Stargardt disease, which affects precision vision. That made it impossible for me to drive and barred me from some types of employment. I refused to let it stop me, but it limits



## I’m getting out!! Thank you for all the support



by Tabitha L.  
Groundcover  
Vendor #360

Hello, all Groundcover readers. The month is finally here – the month that I finally get to come back home! I hope that everyone is having a good year and that we all make 2018 better. I know that 2018 is my year and the start to a better me.

I can honestly say that I learned a lot during my stay at Washtenaw County Jail. I will forever be thankful and grateful for my time there, for it has

changed my life for the better and has taught me how to make better life decisions.

I want to thank God for waking me up today and giving me another chance at life. I want to thank my father for taking care of my children until I am able to again. I want to thank Susan Beckett for giving me a chance at making money legally. I would also like to thank *you*, the amazing Groundcover readers, because without you there would be no Groundcover. And I would like to give a big thank you to my amazing fiancé, Joe Woods, for standing by my side (I love you baby!).

I am getting out on the 26th, so come and get a paper from me. Everybody, have a good year!

my capabilities.

I used to read a lot. I used to go into the B. Dalton Bookstore and look around saying, “I read that and that and that...” That’s something I really miss. When my eyesight was good, I also wrote. At one point, I was writing three books at once. Reading helped my imagination, which is very good, and it helped me as a writer. But back then I never completed anything. At this point of my life, I’m a big fan of completion.

In the 1980s, I had some substance abuse issues that persisted for years and some legal trouble, all of which is behind me now. I’ve been clean and sober for nearly three years. I started selling Groundcover News in 2012. I enjoyed that the community embraced me despite everything else. I felt that I could do this well and therefore put all my effort into it. I aim to make buying Groundcover News a pleasant experience that people will want to repeat.

I attribute much of my success in battling my troubles to being involved with Groundcover. They accepted me and gave me a chance to work. I was homeless for several years during my substance abuse and legal trouble period. Through the relationships I made at Groundcover, I was able to work through my problems.

Now I am on my third lease and have lived in my own apartment for two years. Living this life of selling the paper and interacting with people has developed a positive attitude within

me. Ann Arbor cares about its community, a fact that has helped me with my transformation.

I met some very dear friends at St. Mary’s Student Parish, where I sell on Sundays. Special relationships have formed there, at the People’s Food Co-op, on South University with the students and various other places around town and at Groundcover’s headquarters itself. It is very challenging to present Groundcover News to students every day, but I embrace the challenge. I enjoy talking with them and hope we can both grow from our interactions. There are students I’ve met who I will probably be friends with for the rest of my life. I really value these relationships.

I get a lot of love from the parishioners at St. Mary’s. It was there that I met Peggy Lynch of Mercy House (MISSION). She opened her house to me for a substantial amount of time, which allowed me to get everything together so I could go on to be successful.

My biggest strength is my spirituality. This is what I believe governs my total

see LONNIE, page 11

Let light shine out of darkness  
2 Corinthians 4:6



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## Eugene Gregory, R.I.P.

Eugene Gregory, a favorite guest at the Mercy House Saturday Community Breakfast, passed away in December, 2017. Peggy Lynch of the Peace House described Eugene as "The Gentle Giant." Farewell to our dear friend. REST IN PERFECT PEACE!!!



Eugene Gregory 1948 - 2017

## Tommie Cotton, R.I.P.

Tommie T. Cotton was a familiar face around the campus area of Ann Arbor. He was born and raised in Macon, Georgia where he was a high school track star. A self-employed carpenter, he moved with his wife to Willis, Mich. He relocated to Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti after he and his wife divorced. He struggled with alcoholism and intermittent homelessness for 15 years.

Though he was cited as an aggressive panhandler, his friends know him as a sweet and considerate people person who helped hundreds of homeless people over the years, sharing food and money he had received. Tommie was always a sharp dresser – shoes shined and sporting hats with feathers on side. Tommie loved music and was

known for his singing and dancing.

Thanks to Avalon Housing, Tommie lived in an apartment this past year. He is survived by his mother Parthenia, daughter Shanda Hunter, sisters Carmen, Rosa, Elainna, Sharon and Cynthia, and many nieces, nephews and friends.



Tommie Cotton 1959 - 2017

## Earl Uomoto, R.I.P.

Affordable housing activist and Avalon Housing resident, Earl Uomoto, passed away at the age of 64 in early December, 2017. Earl was born in Japan and grew up both there and in the United States. His many friends from the Fleetwood Diner and around town held a memorial service for him on December 16. Look for more about his life's work in the February 2018 edition of Groundcover News.



Earl Uomoto 1953 - 2017

## Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

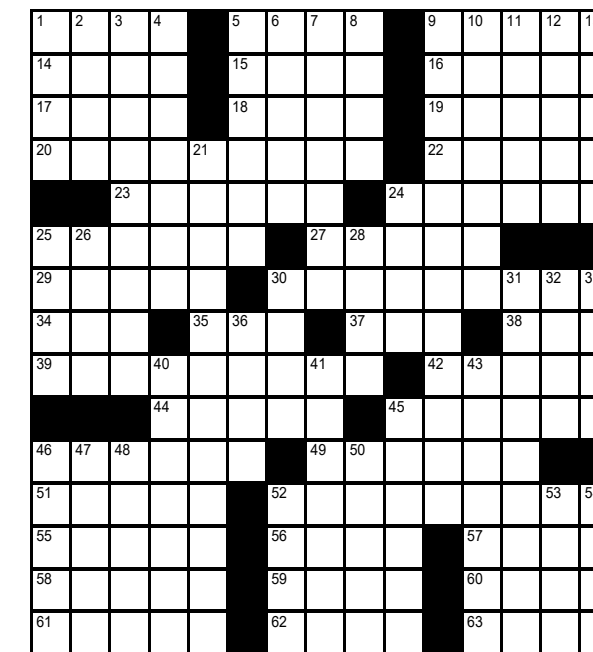
					4			
8	6	3						9
4		9	5					8
	8		7				2	4
7			9	8	3			1
6	3				5		8	
2					9	4		5
3						7	9	6
			3					

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## Lip Service Tracy Bennett

### ACROSS

1. Ewe's issue
5. Pillage, as the fridge
9. Emerge from incubation
14. China setting
15. Tracy Turnblad's "Hairspray" mom
16. "South Pacific" hero
17. Harper Lee title word
18. "Guffawing" in texts
19. PDF destination, often
20. Sweet ice cream treat
22. "Wild" actress Witherspoon
23. Brusquely sent away
24. Got the flavor of
25. Sake
27. "Raiders of the Lost Ark" setting
29. PDF carrier, often
30. Manwich, essentially
34. Musophobia's cry
35. I puffy heart
37. Stephen of "The Crying Game"
38. Clickable link, for short
39. Golden Arches unit
42. February flowers
44. Old Turkey
45. Paul, before he got his Wings
46. Goofball
49. Makes much of
51. Not streaming, say
52. Diamond position
55. Tatum of "Paper Moon"
56. Deep sleepers, metaphorically
57. Meg of "Sleepless in Seattle"
58. Blue-eyed "Cheers" waitress
59. Nature's burn salve
60. \_\_\_ Domini (Year of Our Lord)
61. "Such a pity"



© Tracy Bennett (published via Adobe Acrobat DC)

62. What a lover may receive at 52-Across... and a word that can follow the starts of 20-, 30- 39- and 52-Across
63. Gives subtle consent

24. Kind
25. Manwich essential
26. Part of FEMA: Abbr.
28. Like some M-rated video games
30. Turbaned dervish dancer
31. Sober advice of the 1980s
32. Ex-Dodger Hershiser
33. Besides
36. Dread words
40. Curt Cobain's band
41. Cheese-filled pillows
43. Healthy muffin stuff
45. Quaint 62-Acrosses (or AATA vehicles)
46. Forested territories
47. Film composer Morricone
48. What the giver of a 62-Across might get
50. Sparta's foe
52. Criticism that hits hard
53. Sleeping Bear substance
54. Grandson of Adam and Eve

### DOWN

1. \_\_\_ Michigan
2. "In its present condition" sale warning
3. Treat that "brings the boys to my yard" in a Kelis hit
4. "South Pacific" ballad
5. Upgrade a house's shingles, say
6. Rope- \_\_\_ (Ali's boxing style)
7. Ungodly heathen
8. Hill's counterpart
9. Next in line... obviously
10. Reward for testimony, perhaps
11. The Dalai Lama's homeland
12. Intimate
13. Bewitched, in a bad way
21. Babied indulgently



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Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



### January 2017 EVENTS:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>January 1</b>  | <b>Office closed - Happy New Year</b>  |
| <b>January 8</b>  | <b>New Testament Class begins at 7:00 p.m.</b><br><i>Monday evenings from Jan. 8 – Feb. 26</i>         |
| <b>January 13</b> | <b>German Pretzel Sales, 10:30 – 12, \$1 or \$10 dozen</b><br><i>Call to pre-order at 734-665-6149</i> |
| <b>January 21</b> | <b>Presentation, 11:15 a.m., on LGBTQ inclusion</b>  |
| <b>January 24</b> | <b>Evening Worship in the Chapel, 6 p.m.</b>   |
| <b>January 26</b> | <b>Family Fun Night, 6 p.m.</b>  |
| <b>January 27</b> | <b>Red Cross Blood Drive 10-4</b><br><b>Call 800-733-2767 to schedule appointment</b>                  |



### Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. Sunday school

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## GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

### All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News

vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:

[contact@groundcovernews.com](mailto:contact@groundcovernews.com)

## GROUNDCOVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES PACKAGE PRICING

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size (H x W)
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	2 x 3.5
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	6.5 x 2.25 or 3 x 4.5
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	4 x 5
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	6.25 x 5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	6.5 x 10.25 or 12.75 x 4.5
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	13 x 10

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off

Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off

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Additional 20% off ads with coupons



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## Banana bread

by Elizabeth Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

### Ingredients:

1 1/3 cup flour  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon baking powder  
5 1/3 tablespoons butter  
2/3 cup sugar  
2 large eggs  
2 mashed ripe bananas  
3/4 cup chopped walnuts (optional)  
3/4 cup chocolate chips (optional)

### Directions:

Bring all the ingredients to room temperature. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and lightly flour bread loaf pan.

Whisk together flour, salt, baking soda and baking powder.

In a large bowl beat the butter and sugar on high speed for 2 to 3 minutes.

Beat in the flour mixture until blended and the consistency of brown sugar.

Gradually beat in eggs.

Fold in bananas, walnuts and chocolate chips.

Pour batter in pan and bake until

toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 55-60 minutes.

Let cool on rack 10-15 minutes then remove from pan and continue cooling.

A perfect way to use up those too-ripe bananas!

*Recipe adapted from The Joy of Cooking.*



## St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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### Mass Schedule

**Saturday** 5 pm

**Sunday** 7 am, 8:30 am,  
10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 5 pm &  
7pm (Spanish Mass)

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